

I commend Charles for his admirable triumphs thus far and wish him success as he continues to complete in the future. He is an inspiration to all of us—and to quote him, “Who said getting older can’t be a blast?”

RECOGNIZING CENTENNIAL OF
SUSTAINED IMMIGRATION FROM
PHILIPPINES TO UNITED STATES
AND ACKNOWLEDGING CON-
TRIBUTIONS OF FILIPINO-AMER-
ICAN COMMUNITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 218, a resolution to recognize 2006 as the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines to the United States and to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Filipino Americans over the past century.

Immigration from the Philippines to the United States began in 1906 when the first significant numbers of Filipino immigrants arrived in Hawaii to work on the island's sugar plantations. Today, a century later, the Filipino-American community's numbers increase by nearly 60,000 new immigrants per year, making Filipinos the largest immigrant group from the Asia-Pacific region.

The Filipino-American community has added so much to the vibrant culture of Chicago and our country. The 9th Congressional District boasts about 17,000 Filipino residents, which makes it home to the 36th largest number of Filipino-Americans among Congressional districts.

I am particularly proud of the achievements by my constituents like Ms. Aurora Abella-Austriaco, a lawyer, who immigrated here from the Philippines. She was just appointed a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness, First District, by the State of Illinois Supreme Court on October 26, 2005. In addition to being partner of a Chicago law firm, she served as a member of the Filipino American Voters League from 1996–98. She is the current Chair of the Cook County States Attorney's Asian Advisory Council and member of the Attorney General's Asian Advisory Council and Clerk of the Circuit Court's Asian Advisory Council. She is the past Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of Chicago and past Chair of the Chicago Bar Association. She also is Vice President of the Asian American Institute's 2005 Board of Directors.

The history of America's Filipino-American community is the quintessential American immigrant story of early struggle, pain and sacrifice, leading to success in overcoming ethnic, social, economic, political, and legal barriers to win a well-deserved place in our national fabric. Filipino-Americans, like Ms. Abella-Austriaco, have made incredible contributions in all parts of our society, including business, labor, politics, medicine, media and the arts. Filipino-Americans have served and are serving with special distinction in our Armed Forces, from World Wars I and II through the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and today in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Smithsonian Institution will be conducting the Filipino-American Centennial Com-

memoration 2006 with five public programs and at least six more in cities including the city of Chicago, which I represent. The programs will range from scholarly discussions and film showings to cultural performances providing historical overviews of Filipino-Americans in the United States.

This centennial celebration will provide every American an opportunity to celebrate a century of Filipino immigration to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN TUCKER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the National Park Service's (NPS) great treasures, John Tucker. A 35-year employee with NPS John is retiring January 3, 2006 after serving as Superintendent of the Fort Sumter National Monument for more than 15 years. I commend Mr. Tucker for his years of exemplary service and dedication to preserving and protecting our nation's treasures.

I came to know Mr. Tucker after being elected to Congress in 1992. Because of my love of history and preservation, he and I immediately found common ground. We have partnered on a number of initiatives during my tenure in Congress with the crowning achievement being the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center. This magnificent \$15 million structure educates visitors about the causes of the Civil War, and it doesn't flinch from the issue of slavery. Mr. Tucker's vision and its implementation at this site are visually stunning and historically significant.

The Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center complex is also a great example of Mr. Tucker's innovative partnership with the City of Charleston. The City built the South Carolina Aquarium adjacent to the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center, and the NPS and the City jointly created Liberty Square, a wonderful park setting that accommodates public events and provides a respite for weary visitors to the Center complex. Mr. Tucker's creativity and willingness to bring a variety of entities to the table have resulted in a destination that visitors to the Charleston area do not want to miss.

Mr. Tucker's career with the NPS began the day after his college graduation on June 1, 1970. His first assignment was at Cades Cove in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. The following January, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and received his training at Parris Island. However, by July 1971, Mr. Tucker was back on the job with the NPS.

He received additional training by the NPS to become a ranger, and these skills served Mr. Tucker well as he traversed the United States serving at various parks: The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cades Cove sub-district: National Capital Park-East, Washington, D.C.; Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon, Georgia; and Cabrillo National Monument, San Diego, CA. From October 1977 until November 1980, Mr. Tucker served as the Chief Ranger at Fort Sumter National Monument, where he eventually became Superintendent.

Mr. Tucker's first Superintendent assignment, however, was at the Andersonville National Historic Site from 1980 to August 1989. His work there included building relationships with the American ex-prisoners of war and restoring historic prison camps. He also had the privilege of serving as Superintendent of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site when it was established in 1988. That same year he was granted NPS's Superior Service Award.

Still the Fort Sumter National Monument beckoned him to return, and in August 1989, Mr. Tucker made his final transfer to become Superintendent of this collection of Charleston's historical treasures. His arrival in Charleston was marked 6 weeks later by the arrival of Hurricane Hugo, another force that left its imprint on this historic city. It took him the next 2 years to repair the damage to the NPS site wrought by the hurricane's fury.

In 1990, Charles Pinckney National Historic Site became part of the NPS inventory and was put under the auspices of Mr. Tucker at Fort Sumter. He has had responsibility in Charleston for 42 historic structures, ten monuments and memorials, 182 acres comprised of cultural sites, a curatorial collection of over 250,000 objects, five historic archaeological sites, and 45 cannon tubes of which 25 are carriage-mounted. His outstanding contributions were recognized by the NPS in 2002 when Mr. Tucker received the Superintendent of the Year award.

I know firsthand of the extraordinary work John Tucker has done for the National Park Service on behalf of the American people. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Tucker on his tremendous career and his dedication to the preservation of our nation's historic and natural treasures. I know that his leadership at the NPS will be sorely missed, and I hope that he will continue to be involved with many projects in the Charleston area some of which both he and I share a deep and abiding passion. I wish him good luck and Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO MATT POMMER

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the work of a remarkable journalist—Matt Pommer of Madison, Wisconsin.

Matt Pommer is retiring from The Capital Times newspaper where he worked for nearly 45 years. The past 35 of those years were spent covering the State Capitol beat. During that time, he covered virtually all of the major stories in the state, including the work of seven Governors.

Matt Pommer is a true journalist, who stayed focused on the facts and worked to make certain that he got the details right. He has an extraordinary knowledge of the inner workings and history of Capitol activity which was reflected in the outstanding quality of his stories. On many issues, most notably the Wisconsin retirement system, he knew as much or more than the legislators working on the issue.

In his years covering legislation Matt was steadfast in his determination to keep the public informed of the on-goings in Wisconsin.